CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY REPORT COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR) DATE DISTR. 20 January 1955 Soviet Naval Vessels Observed in the SUBJECT Baltic and in Riga Harbor NO. OF PAGES 25X1 REQUIREMENT NO. DATE OF INFO. REFERENCES PLACE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SQUECE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEPINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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1. At 0540 hours on 15 June 1954, a Soviet patrol vessel was sighted riding at anchor near position 3 in sea square No. 68. It was 14 to 16 meters long, with a raised foredeck extending over one-third of its total length and an open bridge with a short mast aft. It had a plumb stem and a square stern. There was a deckhouse with windows at the after end of the bridge, and a canvascovered machine gun was on the foredeck.

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- 2. At noon on 15 June, a group of three PT boats with an ex-German M-40-type mine-sweeper was sighted in position N 57-13, E 23-48. The group proceeded in line formation at about ten knots on a course 315 degrees true. The PT boats were apparently of the ELCO type. Two PT boats seen standing close to the entrance to Daugavgriva were relieved by two similar boats which came from the harbor. The relieved boats put into Daugavgriva.
- 3. At 1645 hours, a Soviet motor ship which appeared to be a PT boat tender was sighted approaching Riga harbor. It was 700 to 800 tons and had a slightly raking stem and a square stern. The single smokestack, which was located aft, was hoodless and slightly slanting. There was a mast with a signal yard in the middle of the bridge structure, and a modern pivot crane on each side of the foredeck aft of the forecastle and just in front of the bridge structure. A similar crane was located on the fantail aft of the amidships structure, and a third was in the middle of the deck further aft. The vessel had a large number of portholes, arranged in two moves one above the other, in the amidships structure.
- 4. At about 1800 hours, six PT boats of a new type were sighted coming from northeast and proceeding in line formation at an estimated speed of 35 to 40 knots. They appeared to be step-bottom boats, as only the after third of the hull was in the water. They were about 12 meters long, with an angular skipjack frame, a rather flat bottom, and probably a step at the forward end of the after third of the hull. A rod antenna projected from the enclosed wheel house. There was a twin-barreled machine gun on the foredeck. The engine noise was loud and similar to that of jet aircraft.

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- 5. A POLUKHIN-Class minesweeper entered Daugavgriva harbor on 15 June, exchanging flag signals with the signal station on the western jetty, and tying up in the outer basin of the winter harbor. Four other POLUKHIN-Class vessels and about 30 ELCO-type PT boats were moored side by side in groups of three or four in the winter harbor. Boat chocks for new boats, six of which had been sighted off Daugavgriva, were installed in various parts of the quay in the outer basin. Some boats were seen ashore resting on such chocks.
- 6. At 1130 hours on 16 June, eight PT boats of the new type were seen leaving Riga harbor in a north-northeasterly direction at a speed of 38 to 40 knots. They had a high bow wave and the step beneath their bottoms was distinctly made out when the boats jumped from one wave to another.
- 7. Two small fishing cutters, from which diving exercises were being executed, rode at anchor in a position 300 meters northeast of the leading buoy. They carried a small red flag amidships. The KRONSHTADT-Class submarine chaser was also sighted. Four ELCO-type PT boats in line formation were approaching the harbor entrance. Several harbor patrol vessels were observed. A group consisting of one POLUKHIN-Class minesweeper and two KRONSHTADT-Class vessels in starboard echelon formation was seen off Mersrags (N 57-22, E 23-07) proceeding at about 12 knots.
- 8. At 2245 hours on 16 June, a tow was sighted in bright moonlight in position N 57-37, E 21-42. The tugboat was a two-stacker and considerably larger than the towed vessel. It carried a red light on the mast, exchanging flashing signals with a signal station located near Ovisi. A darkened guardboat was visible close to the shore.
- 9. Early on 17 June, three KRONSHTADT-Class submarine chasers were sighted in position N 57-25, E 20-00. Two of them were steering a northwesterly course, and one a southeasterly course. They proceeded at slow speed and were obviously on guard duty.

| 1. | Comment: It was reported | that the |
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| | Soviets have divided the entire Baltic area into sea squares | measuring |
| | approximately five by six nautical miles. | |
| | square No. 68 is probably located at the | e entrance to |
| | the Gulf of Riga. | |

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